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1982 GATT Notification Activities

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Bureau of Standards
Standards Code and Information
Office of Product Standards Policy
Washington, DC 20234

March 1983



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

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1982 GATT NOTIFICATION ACTIVITIES

JoAnne Debelius

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Bureau of Standards
Standards Code and Information
Office of Product Standards Policy
Washington, DC 20234

March 1983

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, Malcolm Baldrige, *Secretary*
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS, Ernest Ambler, *Director*



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Introduction

On January 1, 1980 the Multilateral Trade Negotiations Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (popularly known as the Standards Code) went into effect. The Code is administered by the Secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva, Switzerland. As a signatory¹ to the Code, the United States has established several programs to implement its provisions. One such program deals with the Code's requirement that signatories be informed of proposed government regulations (standards or certification systems) that might affect international trade.

This report describes the GATT notification activities performed by the Standards Code and Information (SCI) program, National Bureau of Standards (NBS), for calendar year 1982. The U.S. Department of Commerce designated NBS as the official U.S. inquiry point for information on standards and certification activities.² NBS' responsibilities include notifying the GATT Secretariat of proposed U.S. Federal Government rules that may significantly affect trade; maintaining information on similar notifications made by other signatories; and responding to inquiries on both foreign and U.S. notifications. Detailed summaries of NBS' GATT notification activities are prepared monthly and are distributed to the appropriate NBS managers³ and other Federal Government agencies involved in the Code's implementation.

The GATT Secretariat issued 202 notifications in 1982. Twenty of the thirty-six signatories sent the Secretariat at least one notification (see Table 1). Japan had the most notifications (47). Three other signatories - - Canada, Sweden and the United States - - issued 20 or more.

A major objective of the Code is to enable exporters to comment on foreign regulations they feel would unjustifiably impede the export of their products. In an effort to publicize available information, all foreign notifications are currently published in the Commerce Business Daily, the Department of Agriculture's Export Briefs and several other newsletters. The notifications of proposed foreign regulations are received in English, but the full text of the regulation is usually in the language of the issuing country

¹ The signatories, as of December 1982, are listed in Table 1; there are now 37 signatories with the addition of India.

² The Code requires each signatory to have an inquiry point able to answer all reasonable inquiries on technical regulations, standards and certification systems.

³ International Trade Administration (Dept. of Commerce), Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and U.S. Departments of Agriculture and State.

In 1982, NBS established several new activities to improve the current program and provide additional services:

- o a computerized data system for monitoring GATT notifications and inquiries;

- o a translation service, on a shared-fee basis, to provide English versions of the full texts of foreign proposed regulations if requested, and

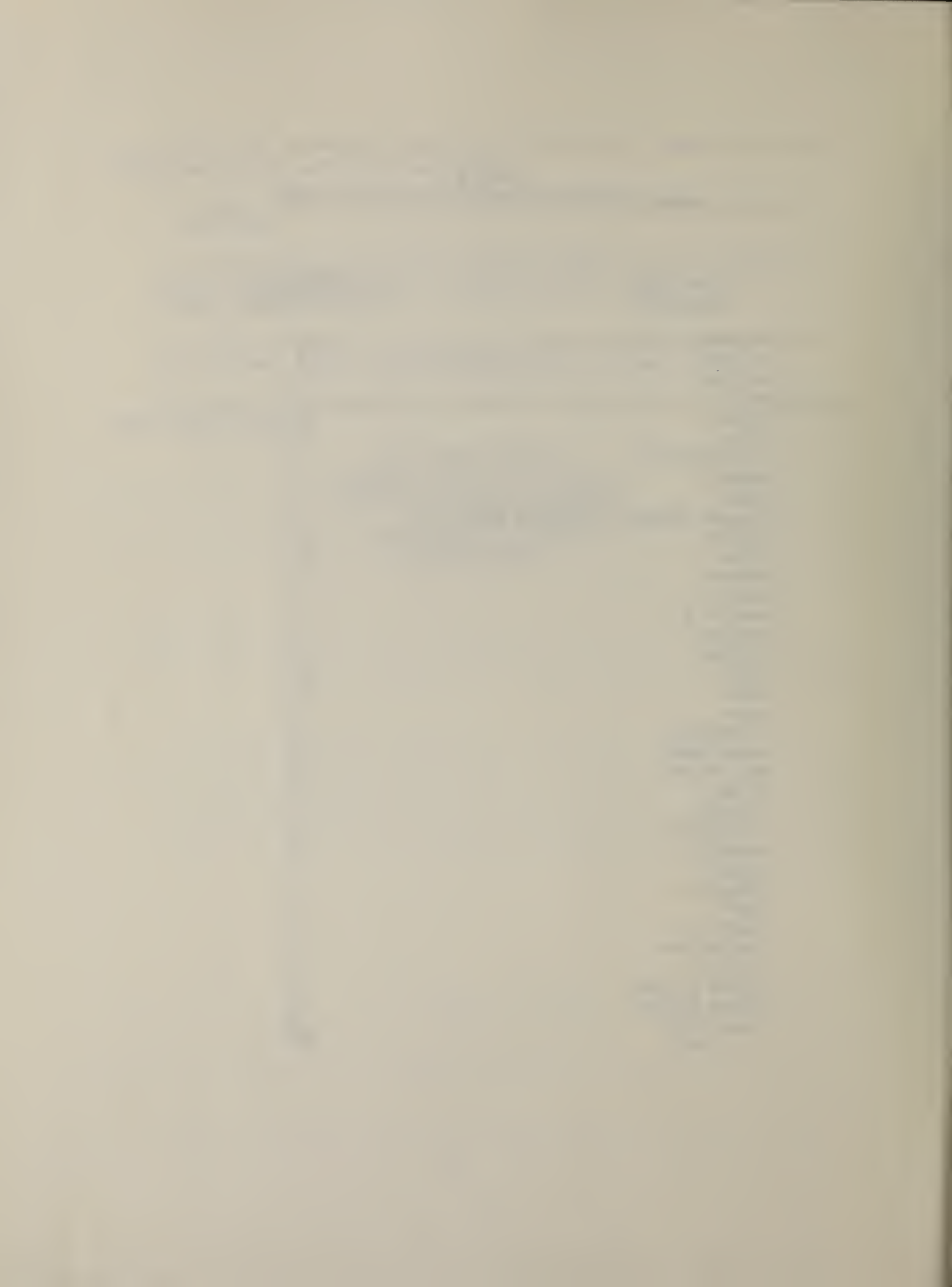
- o a hotline number to call for up-to-date notification information. The "hotline" number is (301)921-3200 and is not toll-free.

We welcome your suggestions or comments on this report or our programs. Please send them to:

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Standards Code and Information
National Bureau of Standards
Technology, B166
Washington, D.C. 20234
(301)921-2092

TABLE 1
Number of GATT Notifications Issued in 1982

<u>Signatory</u>	<u>Number of Notifications</u>
Argentina	0
Austria	8
Belgium	0
Brazil	0
Canada	20
Chile	0
Czechoslovakia	0
Denmark	2
Egypt	0
European Economic Community (EEC)	8
Finland	17
France	10
Germany	1
Greece	0
Hong Kong	2
Hungary	7
Ireland	0
Italy	1
Japan	47
Korea	0
Luxembourg	0
Netherlands	10
New Zealand	0
Norway	5
Pakistan	0
Philippines	2
Romania	6
Rwanda	0
Singapore	1
Spain	0
Sweden	22
Switzerland	2
Tunisia	0
United Kingdom	6
United States	25
Yugoslavia	0
Total	<u>202</u>



Notifications of Proposed U.S. Regulations

Notifications sent to the Secretariat are based on proposed U.S. government rules (mandatory standards or certification systems) published in the Federal Register (FR). The FR is reviewed daily by NBS staff to identify those regulations that may significantly affect trade. If there is a question about the impact of a regulation, appropriate Federal Government agency experts are contacted for concurrence before a notice is sent. Notices are sent directly to the Secretariat via telex once a week.

All notifications are assigned a control number by NBS staff for internal tracking purposes. The GATT Secretariat assigns a Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)/Notification (Notif.) number so that signatories can identify specific regulations. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in Geneva cables the TBT/Notif. number, date of issuance and control number to the U.S. agencies responsible for Code implementation (see page 1).

During 1982, 24 proposed U.S. rules were reported to the GATT Secretariat. The Secretariat issued these notifications plus an additional one sent at the end of 1981, for a total of 25.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration each had 7 of the notifications issued. The 25 regulations reported dealt with such products as motor vehicles, chemicals, clothing, and electrical equipment.

Table 2 itemizes all U.S. notifications. The number of notifications per agency was:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	7
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)	7
Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)	3
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	3
Department of Treasury (Treas)	2
Department of Agriculture (USDA)	1
Department of Energy (DOE)	1
Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA)	1
Total	<u>25</u>

In 1981, the United States reported 91 regulations to the GATT Secretariat. The significant decrease in 1982 was due, at least in part, to current Administration policies concerning new regulations and EPA's view that many pesticide and other regulations, which had previously been reported, were not trade significant.

Table 2

LIST OF U.S. NOTIFICATIONS

TBT/NOTIF. #	AGENCY	PRODUCT
82.2	EPA (151)*	MOTOR VEHICLES
82.6	EPA (152)	DIESEL-FUELLED MOTOR VEHICLES
82.15	TREAS(154)	VODKA
82.16	FDA (153)	FROZEN CONCENTRATED ORANGE JUICE
82.46	NHTSA(155)	LAMPS, REFLECTIVE DEVICES, AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT
82.50	NHTSA(156)	SCHOOL BUS SEATS
82.65	NHTSA(160)	MOTOR VEHICLE WINDOWS
82.66	OSHA (159)	CHEMICALS
82.67	EPA (157)	CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND MIXTURES
82.68	NHTSA(158)	MOTOR VEHICLES-BRAKE HOSES
82.71	TREAS(161)	SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES
82.75	EPA (162)	ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
82.85	EPA (163)	DIETHYLENETRIAMINE
82.88	CPSC (164)	CLOTHING TEXTILES
82.89	CPSC (165)	CHILDREN'S SLEEPWEAR
82.90	CPSC (166)	CHILDREN'S SLEEPWEAR
82.95	FDA (167)	CINNAMYL ANTHRANILATE
82.103	DOE (168)	DISHWASHERS
82.119	USDA (169)	MEAT PRODUCTS
82.129	NHTSA(170)	GLAZING MATERIALS
82.159	NHTSA(171)	MOTORCYCLES
82.163	EPA (172)	POLICY STATEMENT - PESTICIDES
82.175	NHTSA(173)	MOTOR VEHICLE HEADLAMPS
82.180	FDA (174)	DRUGS AND ANTIBIOTICS
82.199	EPA (175)	PESTICIDES

*CONTROL NUMBER

Notifications of Proposed Foreign Regulations

The GATT Secretariat issued 177 foreign notifications in 1982 (see Table 3). A breakdown by country is listed in Table 1.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in Geneva cables the contents of the notifications (which includes country, TBT/Notif. number, brief description of the regulation, and closing date for comments, but not the full text) to the U.S. as soon as they are received from the Secretariat. The notified regulations covered a wide variety of products. Some of the more common product categories were: weighing machines, asbestos, electrical equipment, drugs, chemicals, motor vehicles, food and food products, medical equipment, and appliances. A file is maintained by a SCI staff member on all products that are the subject of foreign notifications. This file also records the names and addresses of individuals interested in specific products not the subject of notifications. When a notification concerning a particular product arrives, all individuals who have indicated an interest are contacted.

Foreign notifications are also sent regularly to the American National Standards Institute, the Bureau of Industrial Economics (Commerce Department), Industry Functional Advisory Committee members, selected representatives on the Interagency Committee on Standards Policy, and several other groups and individuals for dissemination or publication.

Text of the Regulations

In 1982, the texts of all foreign regulations were requested by SCI staff and received from the appropriate inquiry point. Of the 177 regulations reported, 126 were not in English. The following signatories always provide their regulations in English: Canada, EEC, Hong Kong, Ireland, New Zealand, Philippines, United Kingdom, and Singapore. SCI has arranged for a translation service to provide English translations of proposed foreign regulations. The cost of the translation is paid for by the requestor; if more than one person requests a translation, the cost is shared.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The history of the United States is a story of growth and change. It begins with the first settlers who came to the Americas, and continues through the years of exploration, settlement, and the struggle for independence. The story is one of a people who have built a nation of freedom and opportunity, and who have fought to protect those values through the years.

The early years of the United States were marked by a period of rapid growth and expansion. The country was founded on the principles of liberty and justice for all, and these principles have guided the nation through the challenges of the past. The story of the United States is a story of a people who have built a nation of freedom and opportunity, and who have fought to protect those values through the years.

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THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Table 3

LIST OF FOREIGN NOTIFICATIONS

TBT/NOTIF. #	COUNTRY	PRODUCT
82.1	CANADA	TELEVISION RECEIVERS
82.3	FINLAND	NATURAL GAS APPLIANCES
82.4	FINLAND	NATURAL GAS APPLIANCES
82.5	FINLAND	SUSPENDED SCAFFOLDS
82.7	JAPAN	SOFT DRINKS AND FRUIT JUICE INGREDIENTS
82.8	JAPAN	FOOD ADDITIVES
82.9	JAPAN	METAL CANS FOR CANNING
82.10	JAPAN	DRUGS
82.11	JAPAN	METAL ROOF COMPONENTS FOR TERRACE
82.12	JAPAN	CORROSION INHIBITORS FOR ENGINE COOLANT
82.13	CANADA	MOTOR VEHICLES
82.14	NETHERLANDS	LIFE JACKETS
82.17	CANADA	APPARATUS FOR SCRAMBLED TELEVISION SYSTEMS
82.18	CANADA	TELEVISION RECEIVER INTERFACE DEVICES SUCH AS VIDEO GAMES AND VIDEODISC
82.19	CANADA	RADIO APPARATUS SUCH AS DESCRAMBLERS (DECODERS), CLOSED CAPTIONING ADAPTERS, ETC.
82.20	NETHERLANDS	FIREWORKS
82.21	JAPAN	PRE-TENSIONED SPUN HIGH STRENGTH PILES
82.22	JAPAN	COATINGS COMBINED WITH ANODIC OXIDATION AND ORGANIC FINISHING
82.23	AUSTRIA	FURNITURE
82.24	SWEDEN	MACHINES, MACHINE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT FOR THE HANDLING OF MATERIAL AND WORKPIECES
82.25	JAPAN	DRUGS
82.26	SINGAPORE	EMERGENCY LIGHTING EQUIPMENT
82.27	FINLAND	DETERGENTS, CLEANING AGENTS, POLISHERS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS
82.28	FINLAND	DETERGENTS, CLEANING AGENTS, POLISHERS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS
82.29	FINLAND	FOOD
82.30	FINLAND	CITRUS FRUITS, BANANAS ETC.
82.31	CANADA	CRADLES AND CRIBS FOR HOSPITAL USE
82.32	CANADA	FOOD AND DRUG REGULATIONS
82.33	JAPAN	DRUGS
82.34	NORWAY	FORCEMEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS
82.35	NORWAY	FOOD PRODUCTS IN GENERAL
82.36	SWEDEN	CRANES AND WORKING PLATFORMS
82.37	UNITED KINGDOM	PLASTIC CONTAINERS FOR STORING PETROLEUM-SPIRIT
82.38	EEC	PRESERVATIVE
82.39	SWEDEN	BRUSH SAWS WITH TRIMMING AND CULTIVATING ADAPTORS
82.40	SWEDEN	ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT DESIGNED FOR CONNECTION TO THE POWER CURRENT MAINS
82.41	SWEDEN	PIPELINES, VALVES AND FLANGES FOR TRANSMISSION OF NATURAL GAS
82.42	CANADA	FOODSTUFFS
82.43	AUSTRIA	PETROL
82.44	EEC	EMULSIFIERS, STABILIZERS, THICKENERS AND GELLING AGENTS: SPECIFIC CRITERIA OF PURITY
82.45	EEC	ANTIOXIDANTS: SPECIFIC CRITERIA OF PURITY
82.47	CANADA	CLOTHES DRYERS
82.48	FRANCE	EXPLOSIVES
82.49	FINLAND	TOBACCO, CIGARETTES
82.51	FRANCE	GLAZING FOR VEHICLES

TBT/NOTIF. #	COUNTRY	PRODUCT
82.52	JAPAN	PACKET SWITCHED NETWORK
82.53	FRANCE	MEDICAL AND SURGICAL EQUIPMENT
82.54	ITALY	PIPE FITTINGS (BLACKHEART MALLEABLE CAST-IRON)
82.55	HONG KONG	PEANUTS OR PEANUT PRODUCTS
82.56	FINLAND	ELECTRICAL TRIGGER CENTRES OF SMOKE MATCHES
82.57	SWEDEN	GASOLINE-FUELLED AUTOMOBILES
82.58	EEC	HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES
82.59	SWITZERLAND	EGGS
82.60	SWEDEN	ALARM SYSTEMS
82.61	DENMARK	MOTOR VEHICLES
82.62	JAPAN	CANNED AND BOTTLED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
82.63	JAPAN	CANNED AND BOTTLED FRUITS
82.64	JAPAN	CANNED OR BOTTLED MEAT AND EGG PRODUCTS
82.69	FRANCE	DAIRY EQUIPMENT
82.70	JAPAN	ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES
82.72	FINLAND	CONSUMER GOODS
82.73	FRANCE	TELEPHONIC AND TELEMATIC EQUIPMENT
82.74	HONG KONG	FOOD ADULTERATION REGULATIONS
82.76	JAPAN	HAM AND BACON
82.77	JAPAN	MEAT PRODUCTS
82.78	JAPAN	FACSIMILE EQUIPMENT
82.79	UNITED KINGDOM	CHILDREN'S FURNITURE
82.80	CANADA	FM OR PM TRANSMITTERS AND RECEIVERS
82.81	AUSTRIA	COSMETICS
82.82	JAPAN	FOOD ADDITIVES
82.83	JAPAN	POTASSIUM BROMATE
82.84	JAPAN	BUTHYL HYDROXYANISOLE (BHA)
82.86	JAPAN	MEAT PRODUCTS
82.87	FINLAND	ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION OF CRANES
82.91	FRANCE	MOPEDS--TWO-WHEELED MOTOR VEHICLES
82.92	FRANCE	ELECTRIC GENERATORS, HEADLAMPS AND TAIL LAMPS FOR CYCLES
82.93	FRANCE	MARKING OF CYCLES AND MOPEDS
82.94	CANADA	CLOTHING
82.96	NORWAY	TEXTILE DETERGENTS
82.97	JAPAN	BACON AND HAM
82.98	UNITED KINGDOM	TELECOMMUNICATION APPARATUS
82.99	CANADA	RADIO TRANSMITTERS AND RECEIVERS
82.100	SWEDEN	RIDER TRUCKS
82.101	UNITED KINGDOM	CARRY-COTS AND TRANSPORTERS
82.102	SWEDEN	POWER TRANSMISSION SHAFTS
82.104	UNITED KINGDOM	UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE
82.105	CANADA	MEDICAL ELECTRON ACCELERATORS
82.106	CANADA	DANGEROUS GOODS
82.107	FINLAND	DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES
82.108	UNITED KINGDOM	MEAT UNFIT, OR NOT INTENDED, FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

TBT/NOTIF. #	COUNTRY	PRODUCT
82.109	HUNGARY	VARNISHES AND LACQUERS - PAINTS, ENAMELS AND DYES
82.110	HUNGARY	ELECTRICAL MEASURING, CHECKING, ANALYSING OR AUTOMATICALLY CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS
82.111	HUNGARY	ELECTRON OPTICAL RADIOGRAPH MAGNIFIERS
82.112	HUNGARY	THERAPEUTICAL APPLIANCES, INSTEP RAISER
82.113	HUNGARY	THERAPEUTICAL APPLIANCES, CANADIAN CRUTCH
82.114	HUNGARY	VARNISHES AND LACQUERS - PAINTS, ENAMELS AND DYES
82.115	HUNGARY	MEDICAL, DENTAL INSTRUMENTS AND APPLIANCES - THERAPEUTICAL APPLIANCES
82.116	SWEDEN	STATIONARY PRESSURE VESSELS, VACUUM-VESSELS AND OPEN TANKS OF ARMoured ESTER-PLASTIC
82.117	CANADA	FOODSTUFFS
82.118	SWEDEN	MULTIPLE STATION IONIZATION CHAMBER SMOKE DETECTORS
82.120	SWEDEN	HEATING INSTALLATIONS
82.121	EEC	VEHICLES WITH POSITIVE-IGNITION OR COMPRESSION-IGNITION ENGINE OF CATEGORIES M1/N1
82.122	SWEDEN	DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES
82.123	JAPAN	CONTACT CONDUCTORS WITH INSULATING COVERS
82.124	JAPAN	LIGHTING BUSWAYS
82.125	JAPAN	SKIS
82.126	JAPAN	TUFTED CARPETS
82.127	JAPAN	BUSES, TRUCKS AND CYCLES
82.128	JAPAN	RUBBER SAFETY SHOES
82.130	JAPAN	ADHESIVE TAPES FOR GENERAL PURPOSE
82.131	JAPAN	COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT
82.132	SWITZERLAND	FOODSTUFFS
82.133	FRANCE	PIPELINES
82.134	AUSTRIA	MACHINES AND OTHER APPLIANCES
82.135	CANADA	BISCUITS AND COOKIES
82.136	CANADA	TELEVISION BROADCASTING TRANSLATORS
82.137	AUSTRIA	DANGEROUS GOODS
82.138	NETHERLANDS	PESTICIDES RESIDUES
82.139	CANADA	BOOSTER CUSHIONS, MOTOR VEHICLES
82.140	NORWAY	ELECTRIC BEDS
82.141	SWEDEN	HEAVY CURRENT INSTALLATIONS IN EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES
82.142	NETHERLANDS	FILLING OF QUILTS, GARMENTS, FURNITURE AND CHILDREN'S TOYS
82.143	NETHERLANDS	MOTOR VEHICLES AND BUSES AND TRACTOR TRAILERS
82.144	SWEDEN	PAPER MILL MACHINERY
82.145	AUSTRIA	COLOR TELEVISION SETS
82.146	AUSTRIA	ELECTRICAL HOUSEHOLD LAUNDRY-DRIERS
82.147	DENMARK	PRESSURE VESSELS IN VEHICLES
82.148	JAPAN	ALUMINUM BUTT-WELDING PIPE FITTINGS
82.149	SWEDEN	ROOTED PLANTS
82.150	CANADA	RADIO APPARATUS
82.151	FINLAND	PACKAGES OF SPECIAL DIETARY FOOD
82.152	JAPAN	FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
82.153	FRANCE	MOPEDS
82.154	JAPAN	FERTILIZERS (PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER)
82.155	JAPAN	FERTILIZER (SHELLFISH MEAL)

TBT/NOTIF. #	COUNTRY	PRODUCT
82.156	SWEDEN	FOREST REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL
82.157	PHILIPPINES	TUBULAR FLUORESCENT LAMPS
82.158	PHILIPPINES	STEEL CYLINDERS FOR LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS
82.160	NORWAY	COMBUSTIBILITY MARKING OF CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
82.161	SWEDEN	CYCLE HEADLAMPS, REAR LAMPS AND REFLEX-REFLECTING DEVICES
82.162	SWEDEN	TRUCKS AND TRAILERS
82.164	FINLAND	CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES WHICH HAVE CARCINOGENIC EFFECTS
82.165	CANADA	FOODSTUFFS
82.166	JAPAN	STRUCTURAL PLYWOOD
82.167	JAPAN	MEASURING INSTRUMENTS
82.168	SWEDEN	ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FOR PHOTOGRAPHING AND SHOWING OF PICTURES
82.169	ROMANIA	UNADAPTED COAXIAL CONNECTORS OF TELEVISION ANTENNA LEADS
82.170	ROMANIA	SOLID-WOOD PARQUET FLOORING
82.171	ROMANIA	RADIOELECTRICAL-FREQUENCY CONNECTORS
82.172	ROMANIA	MACHINE-TOOLS
82.173	ROMANIA	ELECTRICAL RELAYS
82.174	ROMANIA	RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK
82.176	JAPAN	INSULATED WIRES
82.177	NETHERLANDS	GENERATOR SETS
82.178	NETHERLANDS	JACKHAMMERS
82.179	NETHERLANDS	MOTOR COMPRESSORS
82.181	AUSTRIA	CERTAIN ELECTRICAL HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES
82.182	JAPAN	COSMETICS
82.183	FINLAND	LUMINAIRES
82.184	FINLAND	LIFTS FOR HIGH STORAGE
82.185	EEC	WHEELED AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS
82.186	SWEDEN	CERTAIN FOODSTUFFS (FRUIT, VEGETABLES, POTATOES)
82.187	EEC	MOTOR VEHICLES AND THEIR TRAILERS
82.188	NETHERLANDS	DENTAL FLOSS
82.189	NETHERLANDS	ASBESTOS
82.190	JAPAN	APPLIANCES
82.191	JAPAN	SPRAYED METAL COATING
82.192	JAPAN	GAS APPLIANCES
82.193	JAPAN	SAFETY EQUIPMENT
82.194	JAPAN	PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND TRICHLOROETHANE
82.195	JAPAN	ELECTRIC STORAGE TANK WATER HEATERS
82.196	JAPAN	RELIEF VALVES FOR HOT WATER APPLIANCES
82.197	JAPAN	REINFORCED CONCRETE BENCH FLUMES
82.198	SWEDEN	FLAMMABLE PRODUCTS AND EXPLOSIVES
82.200	GERMANY	COSMETICS
82.201	FINLAND	VEHICLES FOR TRANSPORTING EXPLOSIVES
82.202	EEC	FISH: LING AND DOGFISH

Comments on Proposed Foreign Regulations

Manufacturers and exporters, as well as government agencies, are provided with an opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign regulations, especially if there is likelihood that the regulations would disadvantage U.S. exporters.

U.S. government or business organizations commented on three proposed foreign regulations notified through the GATT Secretariat in 1982:

82.84 Japanese ban on the food additive BHA

82.98 United Kingdom on telecommunications attachments

82.186 Swedish revision of their ordinance on foreign substances in food

SCI staff are responsible for coordinating comments made by U.S. manufacturers on specific proposed foreign regulations and transmitting them to the appropriate foreign government. Limited resources are available to assist U.S. companies in developing their comments and in determining whether a technical trade barrier exists.

Inquiries

In 1982, 478 inquiries for GATT notification information (401 U.S., 71 foreign) were processed, an increase of 112 over 1981. These numbers reflect the number of letters and/or telephone calls received. Many requestors asked for copies of more than one regulation. In addition to requests for specific foreign regulations, many individuals asked for general information on the Standards Code. NBS responds to these individuals by sending an information package consisting of a list of recent foreign notifications, a brochure on the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, and subscription information for the Commerce Business Daily.

Most inquiries are answered within 1-2 days, depending on the availability of the regulation. Requests from foreign countries for proposed U.S. regulations (copies of the Federal Register notice) are answered the same day.

U.S. exporters were most interested in regulations from Canada, Finland, France, the EEC, Japan, and Sweden. The most requested regulations dealt with televisions, machine tools, drugs, appliances, electrical equipment, food additives, dangerous substances, and motor vehicles. Foreign exporters were primarily interested in electrical equipment, meat products, pesticides, chemicals, and motor vehicles.

In its first six months of operation (July - December), the GATT hotline received 996 calls from individuals interested in foreign regulations and Standard Code activities.

Comment Periods

To provide signatories with the opportunity to receive the text of a regulation, review it, and prepare comments, the Standards Code recommends a comment period of at least 45 days. In 1982 the average length of the comment period* for U.S. regulations was 50 days; for foreign regulations 44 days. Table 4 lists all U.S. regulations and the length of comment period for each. The average length of comment period* by U.S. agency was:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Days</u>
USDA	50
CPSC	48
NHTSA	43
DOE	50
EPA	39
FDA	48
OSHA	34
Treasury	121

Comment periods for foreign regulations varied from none at all to 225 days. Table 5 lists all foreign regulations and the length of comment period* for each. The average length of comment period by country was:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Days</u>
Austria	26
Canada	40
Denmark	48
EEC	43
Finland	37
France	31
Germany	58
Hong Kong	55
Hungary	46
Italy	45
Japan	37
Netherlands	37
Norway	32
Philippines	43
Romania	109
Singapore	43
Sweden	37
Switzerland	46
United Kingdom	21

* The number of calendar days between the date the notice was issued by the Secretariat and the closing date for comments.

TABLE 4
Comment Periods for Proposed U.S. Regulations

<u>Agency</u>	<u>TBT/Notif #</u>	<u>Date Issued</u> **	<u>Closing Date</u>	<u>Length of Comment Period</u> **
EPA (151)*	82.2	01/07/82	02/22/82	34
EPA (152)	82.6	01/11/82	03/04/82	45
Treasury (154)	82.15	01/22/82	07/11/82	163
FDA (153)	82.16	01/22/82	03/09/82	39
NHTSA (155)	82.46	03/02/82	04/08/82	33
NHTSA (156)	82.50	03/12/82	04/26/82	45
NHTSA (160)	82.65	04/14/82	06/01/82	48
OSHA (159)	82.66	04/14/82	05/18/82	34
EPA (157)	82.67	04/14/82	05/10/82	26
NHTSA (158)	82.68	04/14/82	05/13/82	29
Treasury (161)	82.71	04/19/82	07/06/82	79
EPA (162)	82.75	04/30/82	06/21/82	52
EPA (163)	82.85	05/25/82	06/28/82	35
CPSC (164)	82.88	05/28/82	07/16/82	48
CPSC (165)	82.89	05/28/82	07/16/82	48
CPSC (166)	82.90	05/28/82	07/16/82	48
FDA (167)	82.95	06/04/82	07/26/82	53
DOE (168)	82.103	06/28/82	08/16/82	50
USDA (169)	82.119	07/21/82	09/07/82	50
NHTSA (170)	82.129	08/12/82	10/27/82	78
NHTSA (171)	82.159	10/05/82	11/08/82	35
EPA (172)	82.163	10/13/82	-----	--
NHTSA (173)	82.175	10/26/82	11/29/82	35
FDA (174)	82.180	10/29/82	12/20/82	53
EPA (175)	82.199	12/03/82	02/22/83	82

*Control number

** Comment periods are calculated from the date issued by the Secretariat to closing date.

TABLE 5
Comment Periods for Proposed Foreign Regulations

	<u>Date Issued</u>	<u>Closing Date</u>	<u>Length of Comment Period</u>
<u>Austria</u>			
82.23	01/29/82	01/29/82	0
82.43	02/25/82	-----	0
82.81	05/14/82	06/15/82	33
82.134	08/23/82	09/30/82	46
82.137	08/26/82	10/15/82	51
82.145	09/13/82	10/10/82	28
82.146	09/13/82	10/10/82	28
82.181	10/29/82	11/15/82	18
<u>Canada</u>			
82.1	01/07/82	05/11/82	86
82.13	01/19/82	04/02/82	71
82.17	01/25/82	-----	0
82.18	01/25/82	-----	0
82.19	01/25/82	-----	0
82.31	02/09/82	03/18/82	37
82.32	02/09/82	03/18/82	37
82.42	02/26/82	03/31/82	33
82.47	03/03/82	03/22/82	19
82.80	05/12/82	06/16/82	35
82.94	05/28/82	07/14/82	48
82.99	06/22/82	09/03/82	74
82.105	07/01/82	08/18/82	49
82.106	07/01/82	-----	0
82.117	07/12/82	08/25/82	45
82.135	08/25/82	10/06/82	43
82.136	08/31/82	12/05/82	97
82.139	08/26/82	10/13/82	49
82.150	09/17/82	10/27/82	41
82.165	10/15/82	11/17/82	34
<u>Denmark</u>			
82.61	04/28/82	08/01/82	95
82.147	09/16/82	-----	0

	<u>Date Issued</u>	<u>Closing Date</u>	<u>Length of Comment Period</u>
<u>EEC</u>			
82.38	02/25/82	04/22/82	56
82.44	03/01/82	04/22/82	52
82.45	03/01/82	04/22/82	52
82.58	03/26/82	05/15/82	50
82.121	07/27/82	09/30/82	66
82.185	11/05/82	11/19/82	15
82.187	11/11/82	01/03/82	54
82.202	12/15/82	-----	0
<u>Finland</u>			
82.3	01/07/82	-----	0
82.4	01/07/82	-----	0
82.5	01/07/82	02/28/82	41
82.27	02/05/82	03/31/82	54
82.28	02/05/82	03/31/82	54
82.29	02/05/82	03/12/82	35
82.30	02/05/82	03/12/82	35
82.49	03/10/82	-----	0
82.56	03/18/82	05/07/82	50
82.72	04/22/82	05/31/82	39
82.87	05/26/82	06/30/82	35
82.107	07/02/82	06/30/82	0
82.151	09/17/82	10/30/82	44
82.164	10/15/82	12/31/82	78
82.183	11/03/82	12/31/82	59
82.184	11/03/82	12/15/82	43
82.201	12/07/82	01/31/83	56
<u>France</u>			
82.48	03/08/82	04/15/82	38
82.51	03/15/82	04/25/82	41
82.53	03/17/82	-----	0
82.69	04/15/82	05/22/82	37
82.73	04/26/82	05/15/82	19
82.91	05/28/82	07/02/82	34
82.92	05/28/81	07/02/82	34
82.93	05/28/82	07/02/82	34
82.133	08/23/82	09/27/82	36
82.153	09/27/82	10/30/82	34

	<u>Date Issued</u>	<u>Closing Date</u>	<u>Length of Comment Period</u>
<u>Germany</u>			
82.200	12/06/82	02/01/83	58
<u>Hong Kong</u>			
82.55	03/17/82	05/11/82	55
82.74	04/29/82	06/23/82	55
<u>Hungary</u>			
82.109	07/08/82	08/31/82	55
82.110	07/08/82	07/31/82	24
82.111	07/08/82	07/31/82	24
82.112	07/12/82	82/31/82	51
82.113	07/12/82	08/31/82	51
82.114	07/12/82	08/31/82	51
82.115	07/12/82	09/15/82	66
<u>Italy</u>			
82.54	03/17/82	05/01/82	45
<u>Japan</u>			
82.7	01/12/82	02/15/82	28
82.8	01/12/82	02/15/82	28
82.9	01/19/82	02/15/82	28
82.10	01/12/82	-----	0
82.11	01/12/82	02/13/82	26
82.12	01/12/82	02/13/82	26
82.21	01/29/82	03/06/82	36
82.22	01/29/82	03/06/82	36
82.25	02/03/82	03/20/82	45
82.33	02/09/82	03/20/82	39
82.52	03/17/82	05/04/82	48
82.62	04/06/82	05/15/82	39
82.63	04/06/82	05/15/82	39
82.64	04/06/82	05/15/82	39
82.70	04/15/82	05/20/82	35
82.76	05/04/82	05/15/82	11
82.77	05/04/82	05/15/82	11
82.78	05/07/82	06/30/82	54
82.82	05/19/82	06/30/82	42
82.83	05/19/82	06/30/82	42
82.84	05/19/82	06/30/82	42

	<u>Date Issued</u>	<u>Closing Date</u>	<u>Length of Comment Period</u>
<u>Japan</u> (con't)			
82.86	05/25/82	06/30/82	36
82.97	06/16/82	07/30/82	45
82.123	08/11/82	09/16/82	34
82.124	08/11/82	09/16/82	34
82.125	08/11/82	09/16/82	34
82.126	08/11/82	09/16/82	34
82.127	08/11/82	09/22/82	40
82.128	08/11/82	09/30/82	48
82.130	08/12/82	09/30/82	48
82.131	08/23/82	10/01/82	40
82.148	09/16/82	10/16/82	31
82.152	09/23/82	11/10/82	49
82.154	09/29/82	11/15/82	43
82.155	09/29/82	11/15/82	43
82.166	10/19/82	11/29/82	42
82.167	10/19/82	11/22/82	35
82.176	10/26/82	12/10/82	46
82.182	11/03/82	12/14/82	42
82.190	11/19/82	12/27/82	39
82.191	11/19/82	12/27/82	39
82.192	11/19/82	12/27/82	39
82.193	11/19/82	12/27/82	39
82.194	11/19/82	12/27/82	39
82.195	11/19/82	12/27/82	39
82.196	11/19/82	12/27/82	39
82.197	11/19/82	12/27/82	39
<u>Netherlands</u>			
82.14	01/22/82	03/15/82	45
82.20	01/29/82	03/05/82	35
82.138	08/26/82	09/15/82	21
82.142	09/02/82	09/30/82	29
82.143	09/02/82	10/15/82	44
82.177	10/28/82	11/29/82	33
82.178	10/28/82	11/29/82	33
82.179	10/28/82	11/29/82	33
82.188	11/15/82	12/31/82	47
82.189	11/15/82	12/31/82	47
<u>Norway</u>			
82.34	02/15/82	03/30/82	43
82.35	02/15/82	03/30/82	43
82.96	06/14/82	07/01/82	18
82.140	09/01/82	10/01/82	31
82.160	10/07/82	10/31/82	25

	<u>Date Issued</u>	<u>Closing Date</u>	<u>Length of Comment Period</u>
<u>Philippines</u>			
82.157	10/04/82	11/15/82	43
82.158	10/04/82	11/15/82	43
<u>Romania</u>			
82.169	10/20/82	03/01/83	133
82.170	10/20/82	07/01/83	225
82.171	10/20/82	03/01/83	133
82.172	10/20/82	11/01/82	13
82.173	10/20/82	02/01/83	105
82.174	10/20/82	11/30/82	42
<u>Singapore</u>			
82.26	02/05/82	03/20/82	43
<u>Sweden</u>			
82.24	02/03/82	03/12/82	37
82.36	02/17/82	04/01/82	44
82.39	02/25/82	04/07/82	41
82.40	02/25/82	04/13/82	47
82.41	02/25/82	04/13/82	47
82.57	03/19/82	05/15/82	57
82.60	03/25/82	05/10/82	46
82.100	06/23/82	07/30/82	38
82.102	06/28/82	08/06/82	40
82.116	07/12/82	08/30/82	50
82.118	07/13/82	08/20/82	39
82.120	07/19/82	-----	0
82.122	08/06/82	10/01/82	57
82.141	09/02/82	10/01/82	30
82.144	09/07/82	10/22/82	46
82.149	09/17/82	-----	0
82.156	10/01/82	-----	0
82.161	10/13/82	11/19/82	38
82.162	10/13/82	11/29/82	48
82.168	10/19/82	11/15/82	28
82.186	11/08/82	12/17/82	40
82.198	12/01/82	01/10/83	41
<u>Switzerland</u>			
82.59	03/23/82	05/15/82	53
82.132	08/23/82	09/30/82	39

	<u>Date Issued</u>	<u>Closing Date</u>	<u>Length of Comment Period</u>
<u>United Kingdom</u>			
82.37	02/17/82	03/29/82	40
82.79	05/07/82	-----	0
82.98	06/21/82	-----	0
82.101	06/23/82	07/30/82	38
82.104	06/29/82	08/14/82	47
82.108	07/05/82	-----	0

Recapitulation

The total number of notifications decreased from 295 in 1981 to 202 in 1982. At the same time, however, the number of inquiries increased from 366 to 478, reflecting a growing interest by U.S. industry in foreign regulations and standards activities. The time available for comments on foreign regulations did not change significantly in 1982, averaging only one day longer.

Based on current U.S. deregulatory policy, the number of proposed U.S. regulations to be notified to the GATT Secretariat will probably continue the decline observed in 1982. NBS will not only continue to provide individuals with prompt and accurate information on proposed foreign regulations, but will also attempt to encourage wider review and more comments on them from interested parties.

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4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE 1982 GATT Notification Activities			
5. AUTHOR(S) JoAnne R. Debelius			
6. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION (If joint or other than NBS, see instructions) NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20234			7. Contract/Grant No. 8. Type of Report & Period Covered Final, 1982
9. SPONSORING ORGANIZATION NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS (Street, City, State, ZIP)			
10. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES <input type="checkbox"/> Document describes a computer program; SF-185, FIPS Software Summary, is attached.			
11. ABSTRACT (A 200-word or less factual summary of most significant information. If document includes a significant bibliography or literature survey, mention it here) This report describes the GATT notification activities performed by the Standards Code and Information program, National Bureau of Standards, for calendar year 1982. The U.S. Department of Commerce designated NBS as the official U.S. inquiry point for information on standards and certification activities. NBS' responsibilities include notifying the GATT Secretariat of proposed U.S. Federal Government standards-based rules that may significantly affect trade; maintaining information on similar notifications made by other signatories; and responding to inquiries on both foreign and U.S. notifications.			
12. KEY WORDS (Six to twelve entries; alphabetical order; capitalize only proper names; and separate key words by semicolons) GATT Standards Code; foreign regulations; notifications			
13. AVAILABILITY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unlimited <input type="checkbox"/> For Official Distribution. Do Not Release to NTIS <input type="checkbox"/> Order From Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order From National Technical Information Service (NTIS), Springfield, VA. 22161			14. NO. OF PRINTED PAGES 24 15. Price \$7.00

